

Claims 8 and 9 include all of the features recited in claims 1, 6 and 7. Claims 10 and 11 include all of the features recited in claims 1 and 6 and **not** claim 7. Therefore, it is submitted that claims 10 and 11 are not duplicates of claims 8 and 9 because claims incorporate all of the features of the claims they depend from. Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objection be withdrawn and that claims 8, 9, 10 and 11 be each examined on their own merits.

Claims 1, 4-5, 13, 15 and 19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being allegedly anticipated by Matern et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,592,473). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection since Matern et al. does not teach or suggest all the features of the claimed invention.

Claim 1 broadly recites the features of the preferred embodiment. Claim 1 discloses, *inter alia*, a voice mail service system for a private switching system including a system matching circuit configured to couple to a private switching system so as to interface all information in relation to a call and a management of the call. A voice data memory provides a voice mail function and stores voice guide information in an address sector of a corresponding channel. A voice and signal processor stores voice data of the extension subscriber in the voice data memory and retrieves it so that the voice data can be transmitted. A communication controller manages a state of each channel matching with the private switching system, process channel errors, and maintains and repairs the channel. A control circuit matches with the private switching system to control an operation for maintaining the voice mail function.

The Matern et al. patent fails to disclose the features recited in claim 1. The Examiner inaccurately characterizes the digital switch of Matern et al. (14 of Figure 6) and improperly

equates it with the system matching circuit of the present invention. As stated in column 9, lines 46-49 of Matern et al., the “switching means 14 then directly places the supervisory data in the time slots of the input and output ports to be connected to the supervisory signals.”

This is in contrast to the claimed system matching circuit which is configured to couple to a private switching system so as to interface all information in relation to a call and a management of the call. There is no matching and interfacing of all information relating to a call and management of a call in the Matern et al. patent. The digital switch of Matern et al. performs a simple switching operation where the “switch connects the supervisory data to the desired extension (that is, the extension desired to receive the supervisory data).” (col. 9, lines 56-58)

The Examiner also does not accurately compare the functionality of the communication controller of the claimed invention with that of the disk controller and interface (56 of Figure 6) disclosed in Matern et al. As stated in column 10, lines 12-16 of Matern et al., “secondary storage means 64 (e.g., a hard disk drive) interfaced to the bus 24 by standard disk controller means 56 (which may be a SCSI, RLL, IDE, or other type of standard drive controller/interface means).” These types of disk controllers are simply used to connect disk drives to a computer and control their operation. As mentioned above, the communication controller of the claimed invention manages a state of each channel matching with the private switching system, processes channel errors, and maintains and repairs the channel.

Another deficiency of the Matern et al. reference is that it fails to disclose a control circuit for establishing matches with the private switching system to control an operation for maintaining the voice mail function. The Examiner asserts that the local bus interface (54 of Figure 6) performs an equivalent function. Again, this is not an accurate characterization and comparison of the claimed invention with the applied art. A local bus interface is simply a channel or path for transferring data and electrical signals.

More particularly, in column 7, lines 59-64 of Matern et al., "The control means 12 (preferably comprising a conventional microprocessor 50, such as, e.g., Intel 80x86 local bus interface 54, and ROM 6), in addition to being capable of directing and interconnecting (by controlling the switching means 14, which preferably comprises a conventional MITEL MT8981DE chip)." There is no establishment of matches with the private switching system to control an operation for maintaining the voice mail function as recited in the claimed invention. For at least the above mentioned reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection be withdrawn and that independent claim 1 be allowed.

Claims 4-5, 13, 15 and 19 are dependent claims that depend upon independent claim 1. It is respectfully submitted that these claims are allowable for at least the same reasons presented above regarding claim 1.

Claims 2-3, 12 and 14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Matern et al. in view of Hersh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,205,206). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 2-3, 12 and 14 are allowable for at least the same reasons presented above regarding independent claim 1. Furthermore, the application of the secondary reference, Hersh et al., does not make up for the deficiencies of the primary reference, Matern et al., as noted above.

For at least these reasons it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn and that claims 2-3, 12 and 14 be allowed.

Claims 6, 7, 9, 11 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Matern et al. in view of LaRocca (U.S. Patent No. 6,069,888). Applicant respectfully traverses the rejection.

The Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 6, 7, 9, 11 and 16 are allowable for at least the same reasons presented above regarding independent claim 1. Furthermore, the application of the secondary reference, LaRocca, does not make up for the deficiencies of the primary reference, Matern et al., as noted above.

For at least these reasons it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn and that claims 6, 7, 9, 11 and 16 be allowed.

Claims 8 and 10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being allegedly unpatentable over Matern et al., in view of LaRocca, and further in view of Hersh et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

The Applicant respectfully submits that dependent claims 8 and 10 are allowable for at least the same reasons presented above regarding independent claim 1. Furthermore, the application of Hersh et al. does not make up for the differences of Matern et al. and LaRocca.

For at least these reasons, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn and that claims 8 and 10 be allowed.

By this Amendment, claims 25-34 are newly added and recite similar features to the claims originally filed. Therefore, it is respectfully submitted that the new claims are also allowable over the references of record for at least the same reasons discussed above in connection with claims 1-16 and 19.

### **CONCLUSION**

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, it is respectfully submitted that all of the pending claims in the application are in condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that any additional changes would place the application in better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned attorney, **John L. Ciccozzi, Esq.**, at the telephone number listed below.

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this,

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concurrent and future replies, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 16-0607 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,  
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Enclosure:  
Substitute Abstract

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DYK/JLC:jgm/dbp